

DECEIVED.

G. A. RUFF.

Deceived means to mislead, to lead into error, to beguile, to cheat, to delude. There can be no deception unless there is some one to deceive. That is called a deceiver, who deceives his brother, or misleads him into error, or cheats him of his opinion, or his trust and confidence in which he was held by those who had believed him to be honest and upright. How can there be anything more degrading, more treacherous, more insnaring, more accursed than the one who is deceptive. In the catalogue from deceit to deceiver there is a great lesson we can learn if we remove the scales from our eyes and then study the Bible. We are satisfied that if our Bibles were read as much as the papers are, that deception would not so blockade our doors and pathways, both in our temporal as well as spiritual welfare.

Rebekah, Jacob's mother, was a deceiver. She placed the skins of the kids upon Jacob's hands and on his neck to imitate Esau, in order that Isaac should be deceived and bless Jacob. What would you think in this day and age if a mother would practice such deception in her family? It came very near costing Jacob his life, as Esau hated him for deceiving Isaac, their father, who was blind. Gen. 27. We also find that Tamar deceived Judah. Then by deception Joseph was cast into prison. This, however, was more of a false accusation, seemingly a twin brother to a deceiver. O, that we had more Job's, or that we all were like him who said, "My lips shall not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit." Job 27.

The way of the deceiver is hard with God's curse upon him. The psalmist says, "He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart, who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully, He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation." Psalms 24. In the judgment of Moab for their contempt of God, we find that, "Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood." Jeremiah 48:10. Moses in exhorting the Israelites to obedience taught them the blessings and curses that were set before them, and said, "Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; for when we do that the Lord's wrath will be kindled against us, insomuch that he will shut up heaven so there will be no rain, nor allow the land to yield her fruit." Paul,

in writing to Timothy, says, "That evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived;" and says, "Continue in the things which thou hast learned, and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them." Jesus said, "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that hearth the Word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word, and he becometh unfruitful."

He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom, but the tares are the children of the wicked one and are those who deceived. The enemy that sowed them is the devil, the greatest deceiver that ever dwelt on earth; the harvest is the end of the world, and the reapers are the angels. As, therefore, the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so shall it be in the end of the world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, which includes all who do deceive and do iniquity: "And they shall be cast into a furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father, while the deceiver will go down into that terrible abyss to be scourged by their teacher, Satan, to live in torment throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity. Do not deceive.

THE BIBLE.

W. A. WELTY.

For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and dividing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joint and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.—Heb. 4:12.

Our subject, the Bible, is one among the greatest that ever occupied the thoughts of man. We look to the Bible for all true philosophy, science and religion. In it we have the revelation of the power that rules in the universe, yea, of Him who created the world's and all things that therein is. In it we can behold the greatest unbroken chain of truth that the world possesses. It is the center around which all modern science, improvement, civilization and true religion revolves. It portrays to the world the most splendid class of literature, to be written by so many different authors, at different periods of time.

It is the only book that may be read from time to time with increasing interest. It is the only volume that has met with such a torrent of persecution, and yet withstood all, and floats to-day above all opposition and is the Book of books destined to stand until heaven and earth have

passed away. Its influence will not cease until it has reached the ends of the earth and "former things have passed away." It is the only book that has regenerating power. It will transform the life of the vilest sinner. There is no limit to its power for good. It shall increase until the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ.

Spiritualists and skeptics may keep up their bombardment, but still the Bible stands out victor over every foe, and its existence will be maintained until it has accomplished the mission for which God sent it. Take a retrospective view of the past eighteen hundred years and behold its most stupendous achievements, and see what it is doing to-day in all nations of the earth. By the Bible's presence homes have been elevated from the lowest debauchery, souls have been snatched from the evil one, and nations have been enlightened and civilized. There is no boy or girl on all the hills or plains of this fair land but what, if in the most wretched condition, may be made better by perusing its pages. Where the sun shines there is natural day, where the Bible shines there is spiritual day. In it the troubled soul can behold the God of purity, who promises them peace and rest. A sinner looks into the Bible and sees Jesus as the Sabbath of his soul, then may he bask in the sweet sunlight of heaven and foretaste the bliss of his immortal home. Then may he sing:

"Nearer my Father's house,
Where the many mansions be;
Nearer the great white throne,
Nearer the crystal sea."

By the Bible we are furnished with heaven's own light. By prophets, evangelists and apostles, inspired and anointed with the Holy Ghost, was it written and set apart to declare to the earth the counsels of the eternal God.

To feel a conviction of immortality we must live for it. Let any one firmly believe that the soul is permanent, and live from that belief, and soon existence will seem permanent, too; the world becomes the veil of a brighter glory that lies behind it; the condemnation of unbelief is lifted off, since the mind, conscious of its own rooted being, does not wait for immortality, "but is passed from death unto life."
—Thomas Starr King.

Nearness of life to the Savior will necessarily involve greatness of love to him. As nearness to the sun increases the temperature of the various planets, so near and intimate communion with Jesus raises the heat of the soul's affections toward him.—Spurgeon.